Stimulating medical technologies: the role of regional innovation policies

17 November 2020
Baden-Württemberg

Challenge:
- regulatory burden, specifically new challenges in the context of the MDR
- fragmented information on clinical studies
- Need for a centralized source of information and support

Learning from the project:
- Good Practice « Trial Nation » (DK)
- Stakeholder input from State-of-Play
- Study Visit Maastricht: “Workshop on clinic-friendly environment”

Action planned:
- reinforce and continue existing initiative offering stakeholders centralized support in clinical studies in terms of information, guidance, and stakeholder exchange
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Challenge:
A strong financial support from the Region AURA to technological platforms, but Medtech SMEs do not take as much advantage as they could of technological platforms

→ Lack of accessibility of technological platforms for SMEs:
  - Not enough internal expertise
  - Not enough financial resources

Learning from the project:
Voucher program operated by the Danish Technological University, financed through OP ERDF 2014-2020

Action planned:
• Extending Easytech voucher program (support to collaboration between SMEs and RTOs in digital application) in all technological fields used in medtech
• Funded through ERDF 2021-2027
Limburg

Challenge:

- More internationalisation in our ecosystem through EU cooperation, EU projects and EU Smart Specialisation

Learning from the project:

- Our own stakeholders got connected in DK and learnt!

Action planned in phase 2:

- Webinars for all European Regions – note 2 Dec 2020
- Focussed action on Lombardy – ecosystem and regmed
South-Transdanubia

Challenge:

▪ **initial development**: immature transfer of research results to innovative production, financing and intellectual property issues, only few innovative projects as demonstrators

▪ **ecosystem pitfall**: need for adequate organizational, professional and technological background that significantly increases market efficiency of medical technology development organizations

Learning from the project:

▪ **methods of increasing human, professional and technological capacities**: cutting edge solutions from the DK and FR

▪ **good practices**: EIT Health Summer University (FR), Business Support Program in the Capital Region (DK), CEA Technological Innovation Exhibition Space (FR)

Action planned:

• **capacity building** of medical technology enterprises
Upper Silesia

Challenge:

- strengthening the networking of universities, research institutions and SMEs
- regional innovation ecosystem challenge: adaptation and further professionalization,
- understanding the sector, its products and development perspectives in the context of cross-sectoral cooperation
- transition challenges

Learning from the project:

- concept of joint awareness building and learning offered in the Capital Region of Denmark within the Copenhagen Health Innovation, Health Campus and Innovation Factory (Province of Limburg), Baden-Württemberg, best practices and examples from other partners

Action planned:

- Medtech Innovation Infrastructure
- Developing the non-financial support scheme for medtech
The Capital Region of Denmark

Challenge:

Too many crucial product decisions are made based on the assumptions of Medtech developers' internal team without involving Healthcare professionals or patients.

Learning from the project:

Brightlands Ecosystem, Health Campus and Innovation Factory (Province of Limburg)

Other good practices which should be mentioned: Health Capital Helsinki and Upgraded Community (Helsinki-Uusimaa regional council), Clinical Investigation Center for Technology Innovation - CIC-IT (Auvergne Rhone Alpes), Ecosistema Innovazione Lecco (Lombardy Region ) and Regional Specialized Observatories(Upper Silesia region)

Action planned:

Regional hospital infrastructure for SME partnerships – with focus on medtech
Lombardy

Challenge:

- Helping Innovative SMEs and start-ups to get past the last mile of medical product commercialization
- Helping SMEs and Research Organizations in developing and accessing clinical studies

Learning from the project:

- The topic of Clinical Trials came up often during the works, starting from the Stuttgart visit in November 2018 or during the Maastricht workshop on clinical-friendly environments.
- Copenhagen, with “Trial Nation” showed how it is possible to build a more efficient ecosystem for trials.

Action planned:

- Creation of a Virtual (or diffused) Competence Centre on Technological Transfer and Clinical Trials which should work as a source of information, suggestions and guidance for those who are willing to setup clinical trials.
- The core of the platform should be a Board of experts composed by representatives of the Research, University, Clinical and SMEs
Thank you!